

NHS Bedfordshire

Consultation Starts on Plans to Transform Inpatient Mental Health Services

A public consultation started on Friday 22 October regarding proposals to modernise and improve mental health services in Bedfordshire and Luton for adults and older people with severe mental illnesses.

The plans would see some inpatient assessment and admission services move from residential areas in Luton and Houghton Regis to the Luton and Dunstable Hospital site and inpatient services for older people with Alzheimer's disease move from the hospital site to Townsend Court in Houghton Regis.

The refurbished and planned new premises would provide a far better and safer environment for service users. They would also save more than £3 million over three years, which would be used to make further improvements to mental health services, particularly services in the community. If the proposals go ahead, they will be introduced in stages between April 2011 and December 2012.

Consultation leaflets with a freepost response form are available in GP practices, health centres, libraries, council offices and other public places across Bedfordshire and Luton. The consultation closes on Monday 20 December 2010. For more information or to request copies of the consultation leaflet telephone: 01234 897205, e-mail: enquiries@bedfordshire.nhs.uk or visit www.bedfordshire.nhs.uk.

Improve Support for Frontline Organisations

The Office of Civil Society (OCS) are currently consulting with the VCS, to identify how best to improve support for frontline organisations.

The consultation will help to feed into the Big Society agenda. *"The Prime Minister has put building a stronger sense of society – the Big Society – at the heart of our agenda for Government. Through a radical transfer of power and information we want to inspire more people to come together and drive local solutions to our social problems."*

Your views will be very important and so please take the opportunity to feed your thoughts through this process.

The deadline for responses is 6th January 2011. For online submissions please go to: <http://www.strongercivilsociety.org.uk/>

What is 111?

The new three digit number is being used to supplement the 999 emergency number and NHS Direct. It will be available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and free to call from landlines and mobiles.

It will connect callers to non-emergency care services, such as urgent and out-of-hour's services, using the NHS Pathways software.

The software has been developed by doctors, nurses and IT specialists, and enables call handler to direct people to the most appropriate service by assessing their clinical needs and matching them with a directory of local services. The key aim of the service is to relieve some of the pressure on the 999 service and Accident and Emergency departments. The 111 number is expected to be launched in Luton by the end of October.

Position to date

As there was a delay with testing and validation of the directory of services, the initial timetable of the end of October was no longer achievable. Through careful review by NHS Luton, Care UK, NHS Direct and EEAST, our position is whilst clearly delayed, it is still achievable to facilitate a public launch before the end of 2010; this will allow for a 4-weeks running of the service. The following timeframes for launch have now been approved by the 111 Project Board.

Further information can be requested from

Tamara Emetu
3DN DoS Project Manager, NHS Luton, Nightingale House
94 Inkerman Street
Luton
LU1 1JD
Tamara.Emetu@luton-pct.nhs.uk
temetultd@aol.co.uk
Telephone - 01582 532029 / 07947 871178



LAMP CEO Sleeps Out to Support Homeless

On Friday 3rd December 2010, Luton Accommodation and Move on Project's (LAMP) Chief Executive Officer, John Archer, will be joining the annual sleep-out which takes place at St. Albans Abbey. This event is organized to raise awareness of the issues surrounding homelessness, as well as raise money to continue the work of supporting the homeless. Lamp works specifically with homeless young people aged 16–25 year old. If you would like to find out more information about their work, go to www.lamp.uk.net

Tel: 01582 431744 | office@lamp.uk.net

To sponsor John, or make a donation, you can do so at www.sponsor-me.org/johnssleepout.

Voluntary Matters



100th Edition
December 2010



The closing of yet another year is imminent; the speed at which we got here just seems unreal.

As we enter this, the Season of Goodwill, I am seeking some good news reports that may help to put a smile on our faces as we look forward to an exciting New Year! Well, a New Year there will be, but nothing that I could dress up under the auspices of EXCITNG has landed on my desk to be presented as Good News!

Cuts, Cuts and more cuts!

Please will someone remember to CUT down some Christmas trees! From sustainable resources of course
The announcement of the long-awaited, highly anticipated, breath bated, mouth watering, Comprehensive Spending Review came and disappeared like a stealth missile, without the earth shattering revelation we all anticipated (well I did).
So I'm going for the pragmatic approach - the fact is that life will go on! Businesses will still do business, the statutory agencies will still provide services etc, etc! The uncertainties of how, the Voluntary and Community sector fits in, is the million dollar question.

What we know and must not lose sight of is this - we provide an invaluable service that adds excellent value to what other agencies provide and the sector contributes significantly to the holistic wellbeing of the local communities we serve. We will have to re-engineer how we deliver our services and consider who the best partner/s may be for delivery. I don't pretend to be an evolutionist but, the Voluntary and Community Sector has learnt to evolve and will need to again, this time it seems we will have to do it at break neck speed!

Through the words of Confucius, I've learnt this "He who will not economise will have to agonise!"

THAT'S IT! The Voluntary and Community Sector has had to agonise for years, now we're expected to be economist!

Chief Officers Event Tuesday 14th December

Meeting 10–12pm
Luncheon 12–1pm

Please contact Jean Myrie for further information on 01581 733418 or email jean.myrie@valuton.org.uk.

Paid up members who have not yet returned their booking form. Please contact Jean Myrie

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Voluntary Sector - Training Events - Funding	2
VAL Page and Staff News	3
Luton Assembly - Stronger & Safer	4
Luton Assembly—MyPlace & VISION4 CYP	5
Bedfordshire LINK	6
Volunteer Centre	7
Notice Board and Events	8

PLEASE NOTE:
Newsletter Copy Dates

If you would like an event or news item of feature included in our Newsletter, please provide a copy to us by the Closing date for February edition will be Friday 4th February. Please email to :- sue.lovegrove@valuton.org.uk

Please let us know if your contact details change.
Email sue.lovegrove@valuton.org.uk

Training Workshops

These workshops have been specifically designed to equip The Third Sector (Voluntary & Community Sector and Social Enterprises with the knowledge and skills required to help them survive the impact of new changes.

Not to be Missed!

Workshops at VAL for the Year "2010"

Business Planning – Tuesday 18th January 2010

The business plan sets out and justifies your business or idea in a logical framework. It is a blueprint for your business or organisation and it is vital when approaching potential investors and funders.

Drawing up the business plan will help you to identify your strengths and weaknesses, key areas where you need to develop expertise and the financial and other risks involved. It represents the dynamic process of planning and reviewing the business and organisation's agenda over time and should be continually updated.

Learn about the dynamic process of planning and how to review your business, organisation's agenda and cash-flow over time in a systematic manner.



Funding Notice Board

Welcome to our Funding Notice Board section. If there ever was a time for organisations to focus on survival, this is probably the time. Not just because of the funding cuts around us but also because they come at a time when the sector also has to cope with the challenges and opportunities that come with the new kid on the block: THE BIG SOCIETY.

The Cabinet Office has launched a new £100million Transition Fund to help the charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises that are affected by public spending cuts to make necessary adjustments so that they can continue to play an important part in public service reform and the Big Society Agenda.

The Office for Civil Society has appointed BIG Fund (non-Lottery funding operation of the Big Lottery Fund) to administer the fund and will be holding briefing events in Newmarket and Norwich in December for civil society organisations. For further information please contact :

Big Fund: transitioneastern@bigfund.org.uk

Roles & Responsibilities of Trustees - Thursday 10th February 2010

Did you know that as a Trustee you are responsible for the charity /organisation's aims and direction, for its property, finance and the employment of any staff or volunteer? Did you know that as a Trustee you also have duties and responsibilities to supporters and benefactors as well as a duty of care, prudence and a responsibility to ensure legal and regulatory compliance.

Gain a better understanding of what is required as a Trustee or Committee member in order to run your organisation effectively.

Tenders: Demystifying the Legal Terms and Conditions of Contracts -Wednesday 23rd February 2010

The reform of public services over the last decade has seen many third sector organisations adapt to the new commissioning environment.

Evidence suggests that larger charities and voluntary organisations have been quicker to do so and that many small third sector organisations have yet to make the shift.

For those unfamiliar with competitive tendering, this course provides an introduction to the main steps in the process and sets it within the context of commissioning generally. It also provides an understanding in ordinary language of the legal terms and conditions used in contract specifications.

Upcoming Deadlines

Youth Music: Open Grants Programme:

Open to applications

Application Deadline:

10 December 2010

Youth Music is the UK's largest children's music charity, set up in 1999 to promote and support music-making opportunities for children with the least access. It's Open Programme targets nearly £2million of funding to support its goals. Through this programme, Youth Music can provide funding for schools, local authorities, voluntary and community groups and other organisations to increase the number of children and young people who have access to high quality, sustainable music making activities. The maximum Value you can apply for is £ 30,000 and minimum Value is £ 5,000. Projects should focus on at least one of the following four goals:

Early Years; Challenging Circumstances; Encouraging Talent and Potential; Workforce Development. Projects cannot focus solely on Workforce Development and must incorporate another goal. For enquiries contact: Youth Music, One America Street, London, SE1 ONE or telephone

0207 9021060

Co-operative Membership Community Fund

The Co-operative Membership Community Fund helps local communities throughout the UK. Between £100 and £2,000 is available for positive work in the community. <http://www.co-operative.coop/membership/localcommunities/communityfund>



The Volunteer Centre is accredited by Volunteering England and is a core project of Voluntary Action Luton.

Make a Difference Day - Update

Saturday, 30th October brought Make a Difference Day round again. This year our theme was active lifestyle,



for which we brought together several organisations that put on a day of dance and sport at Lewsey Community Centre. We didn't quite get as many people there as we

would have liked, but Kelvin Hopkins, MP, The Mayor, Cllr Tom Shaw and Leader of the Council, Cllr Hazel Simmons came to show their support. We all had a lot of fun as well as learning a bit about keeping active.



We would like to thank all the organisations and people involved in making the day a success. With special thanks to Tesco's for donating the fruit and refreshments, but most importantly a big THANK YOU to the VOLUNTEERS!

Make A Difference Day falls at the end of October every year, so be sure to look out for next year's event!



Volunteer Coordinators' Network

The next Volunteer Coordinators Network meeting will be on Tuesday, 25th January at 10.30am here at Voluntary Action Luton. The meetings are quarterly forums where anyone in volunteer management can discuss issues and best practice. Suggestions for agenda items are most welcome, if you have anything you would like to discuss or would like to attend please contact Phil.

For more information about any of the above or about volunteering in general please contact:

Phil Brown philip.brown@valuton.org.uk or Iris Beazley iris.beazley@valuton.org.uk

Tel: 01582 733418

Important Changes at the Volunteer Centre

Drop-in Sessions

From Monday, 22nd November changes have been made to the way we help people find voluntary work. We have previously operated an appointments system, but have had problems with wasted time caused by people not turning up for their appointments which resulted in very long waiting lists.

In order to address these problems we are now operating on a drop-in basis, so people interested in volunteering can be seen as soon as someone is available to talk to them.

Monday: 2pm - 4pm

Tues-Thurs: 10am - 12.30pm / 2pm - 4pm

Fridays: 10am - 12.30pm

The option to make an appointment will still exist, but we prefer to reserve these for people that have additional support needs.

Time Banking Stopsley

If you live in the Stopsley Area you may be interested in joining our community skills exchange project, known as Time Banking Stopsley. The project involves members giving their time in one hour slots to help or support each other in a practical way.

In return members are then able to 'withdraw' their time for something they would like help with. For example, one person might carry out some sewing in exchange for an hour of gardening from another person.

For more information please contact Iris Beazley.

Welcome Farah!

The Volunteer Centre is very pleased to welcome Farah Nisa to our team. Farah joined us as part of the Future Jobs Fund scheme in April and soon became a valued member of the team.

She was due to leave us in October, but we are delighted to say that Farah will be working with us part-time until the end of March 2011.

Abuse

Is everybody's business

Notes from Safeguarding Adults Conference 11th October 2010

- Opening Remarks - **Frank Toner**, Chair of Safeguarding Board and Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Bedford Borough.
- **Julie Ogley** was absent as she was out of the country.
- The event was a joint venture by both Councils.
- There was an inspirational keynote presentation on Dignity and Care by **Amanda Waring**, actress and campaigner for older people's dignity and rights.
- **Amanda Nally** was the third speaker who talked about Safeguarding and personalisation.
- **Sgt Simon Daize** gave the Bedfordshire Police's perspective on reports of abuse to vulnerable adults.
- Safeguarding Managers: **Alison Ritchie**, Bedford Borough and **Emily White**, Central Bedfordshire, spoke about key activity and learning in safeguarding vulnerable adults in Bedfordshire.
- **Frank Toner** indicated that CQC (Care Quality Commission) had identified areas for improvement in adult social care in Bedfordshire. The unitary councils inherited a poor rating from the previous county council, the rating is now adequate, but that is not good enough—the aim is to be rated excellent.
- It is about getting the policies and procedures, practice and performance and training right. The Councils are committed to working with partners and are part of the "Compact" partnership with the NHS, voluntary sector and so on.
It was noted that self-directed care is open to abuse just like any system— older people and those with disabilities are just as vulnerable as children.
- **Amanda Waring** related her personal experience of hospital care when her mother, the late actress Dame Dorothy Tutin, was dying of leukaemia. She did not feel that her mother was being treated with compassion and dignity in this particular hospital and fought with her GP to get the appropriate care for her mother so her mother's passing was comfortable and dignified.

Amanda indicated that all too often communication and understanding is lost when dealing with older people needing care; we forget they still feel, care and deserve to be treated with dignity even if affected by dementia. She also spoke of the need to care for the carers who may experience loneliness and isolation caring for their relatives/friends.

It is everyone's role to look after our most vulnerable, as we may be in this situation one day. We should celebrate our elders as many cultures do as they are our history. A short film entitled "What do you See", starring Virginia McKenna was shown about an elderly woman in a nursing home who had suffered a stroke. It was as if she was invisible, with care staff bathing her, feeding her and putting her to bed without really acknowledging her, talking to her with any sort of kindness or interest. It was as if the lady wasn't really there. To view a short clip go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTcopj6dYWQ

Amanda is heavily involved in the Dignity Campaign and has taken her film to Downing Street and spoken widely about the importance of respecting and safeguarding our older people.



Bedfordshire Local Involvement Network. Supported by Voluntary Action Luton.
15 New Bedford Road. Luton. Beds. LU1 1SA. Tel: 01582 733418 and speak to a member of the LINK Support Team

Members of staff at Voluntary Action Luton

Executive Director

everton.blake@valuton.org.uk

Finance & Building

maggie.prowse@valuton.org.uk
daniel.sakaldip@valuton.org.uk
david.bailey@valuton.org.uk

Luton Assembly

lorna.brown@valuton.org.uk
susan.vitty@valuton.org.uk
stronger.safer@valuton.org.uk. (Alyson)
myplace.admin@valuton.org.uk (Leon)
assembly.admin@valuton.org.uk (Salma)

Volunteer Centre

iris.beazley@valuton.org.uk
philip.brown@valuton.org.uk

Infrastructure Training & Development

jean.myrie@valuton.org.uk
samuel.agaba@valuton.org.uk

Bedfordshire LINKs

charlotte.bonser@valuton.org.uk
nikki.dalrymple@valuton.org.uk
linkadmin@valuton.org.uk (Lemar)

Admin

sue.lovegrove@valuton.org.uk
admin.desk@valuton.org.uk (Owen)

Future Jobs Fund

marian.courtney@valuton.org.uk

Future Jobs Fund temporary staff

Morgaine Harlow Reception / Admin
Majdah Salim / Reception / Admin
Siobhan Pats / Admin FJF

News Headline.....

WRITTEN MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
CABINET OFFICE

1 December 2010

Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform:
Diamond Jubilee Civic Honours Competitions

Mark Harper

I am pleased to announce that the Government is today launching UK-wide competitions for a grant of city status and a grant of Lord Mayoralty (or Lord Provostship) to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Local authorities throughout the United Kingdom who believe that their district, borough, town or city deserves consideration for either of these rare honours are invited to apply by the closing date of 27 May 2011.



As this year comes to a close we are pleased to report that during the last 12 months over 30 young people accessed community focused work placements within the Borough of Luton. All of the individuals commented about how being in the work place provided them with a sense of well-being, as well as gaining essential work-related skills from the work experience and training packages. Many of the individuals have secured continuing employment, some have gone on to Further Education, and 2 have become first time mums! Congratulations to all!

LAMP Lighting the way for young homeless

LAMP has been in the Lime Light in recent times for receiving a number of awards, including the "Concern Award" in the Community Awards for Luton 2010. Two of our employees have also been nominated to achieve awards for their commitment and support in their work with our clients. We will be celebrating these achievements and giving thanks to all those who have supported us during 2010 during our Carol Service, which will be held on Tuesday 14th December 2010 at 3pm. Anyone is welcome to join us for this event, but please let us know if you are coming, so we can cater for everyone.

Tel: 431744 or email office@lamp.uk.net
Elaine Zemzem
Systems & Administration Manager
LAMP

LEGAL AID CUTS WILL DENY SUPPORT TO THE POOR

The government through Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Justice is proposing £2.2 billion cuts in the legal aid budget. This will deny millions of poor and vulnerable access to justice when they need it most. These cuts are unfair and will affect the entire voluntary sector in terms of assisting the public who uses the sector's advice and support resources.

Please find out more about the cuts and write to the Minister, your local MP's, Law Centres and Luton Borough Council. You can also comment on the Green Paper and read more about this issue through:

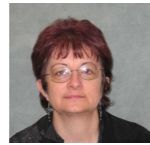
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2010/nov/17/legal-aid-cutsdeny-vulnerable/print>
http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/public/how_legal_aid_is_changing.asp

Jim Thakordin - Chair Luton Committee for Racial Harmony"



Luton Assembly has a new Chair Person
 Following the recent Assembly Chair Elections, Anwar Haque was welcomed as the new Chair of Luton Assembly at the Committee meeting on 10th November 2010.

Anwar is known locally for his work with children and young people. He has been a representative on the Assembly for several years, having served on the VISION 4 Children and Young People's Network Committee and presently sits on the Stronger and Safer Communities Network Committee. He is also Vice-Chair of Luton Forum.



Jenny Spouge is the retiring Chair of Luton Assembly

Thanks go to Jenny Spouge and Linda Farrell for the dedicated service given by them. Jenny is the retiring Chair (and former Vice-Chair), who will continue as an

Assembly representative on the Stronger and Safer Communities Network Committee, while Linda, will continue as Vice-Chair of Luton Assembly (former Chair), along side her work as an Assembly representative on the VISION 4 Children and Young People's Network Committee.



Linda Farrell, will continue as Vice-Chair of Luton Assembly

Children & Young People Useful links for Government Information

NICE's Public Health Programme Guidance on Strategies to Prevent Unintentional Injuries Among Under 15s has now been published. This has clear links with the safeguarding agenda.

There is a Quick Reference Guidance (QRG) to this guidance. The QRG also includes the recommendations made in two related pieces of NICE guidance on 'Preventing unintentional injuries among under-15s in the home'

For all information and to visit the website www.voluntaryworks.org.uk and click on the children and young people in Luton.

Building the Dream of Stronger and Safer Communities Event

Luton Assembly Stronger and Safer Network held their 'Building the Dream' event on Monday 29th November 2010 at Central Baptist Church. This event brought together local Voluntary and Community Sector organisations with other local agencies to develop its shared priorities for building stronger and safer communities within Luton.

The keynote speaker, Ruhana Ali, a community activist, who was born and raised in Luton, talked of the inspirational work she has undertaken in Tower Hamlets whilst working for Citizens UK. The work of City of Sanctuary, a growing movement, which provides a safe-haven, advice, support and friendships within the local communities, was also given.

The Luton Assembly's Stronger and Safer Network Committee presented the Stronger and Safer Network Action Plan for 2010- 2011, which was unanimously agreed to and supported by all those in attendance.

The workshops at the brainstorm ideas, models, drawing upon would be the most communities, as well Safer Communities the network's Action their support for developing ways in



event enabled local VCS organisations to share opinions and develop working the examples given, to consider which appropriate for the needs of Luton as enhance the work of the Stronger and Network in achieving the aims set out in Plan. All those present were unanimous in creating a stronger and safer Luton and which to make this achievable.

Presentations and papers distributed at this event can be found by visiting the **Luton Assembly website <http://www.lutonassembly.org.uk/>** and clicking on the Stronger and Safer Network page, click on the 'Building the Dream' event button for further instruction . If you missed this event but feel your organisation or group has something which it can contribute to the Stronger and Safer Communities Network, please get in touch.

For more information about the work of the network or to enquire about joining the Stronger and Safer Network, please contact: **Alyson Horwood, the Stronger and Safer Network Facilitator by phone on 01582 733418 or via email to stronger.safer@valuton.org.uk.**

TOKKO begins its Public Consultation

As you may know, Voluntary Action Luton is the lead organisation for the myplace project which aims to build a world class youth facility in Gordon Street, now officially called 'TOKKO'.

A public consultation for the proposals for TOKKO is taking place prior to submitting a planning application in the New Year. We will be looking for feedback from the local community on the proposals.

Please come along and see our plans at the public exhibitions:

- **Saturday 11th December 2010 (10am - 2pm), St. Georges Square, Luton Town Centre**
- **Monday 13th December 2010 (2pm - 8pm) Luton Central Library, St. Georges Square, LU1 2NG**

Designed by young people for young people, TOKKO will be a landmark building providing a range of indoor activities, training and support services for 13 to 25 year olds. Please come along to our public exhibition to see the plans before they are submitted, talk to the project team and find out more!

Visit our website: www.TOKKO.co.uk



The proposed plans for the new

Please contact the team for more information: myplace.admin@valuton.org.uk

Save the Date Thursday 3rd February 2011

10 am — 3pm

The Event to herald a New Dawn

Is your organisation delivering services alone? Partnership working is the way forward

Get to know colleagues and build links with other organisations in the 'Speed Dating' sessions and to help plan a united future working together in partnership

At Central Baptist Church, 52a Park Street, Luton LU1 3ET

To book a place contact:- Sue Vitty or Salma Chowdhury on 01582 733418 Email: assembly.admin@valuton.org.uk www.lutonassembly.org.uk



Want to be at the heart of Safeguarding Children and Young People?

Luton's Safeguarding Children Board are looking for two volunteers to take on the role of lay representative of the Board. Applicants should have an interest in children's issues and the safety of children, an ability to communicate effectively in meetings and the confidence to ask questions and challenge people in a constructive way. You will also need to demonstrate a commitment to promoting equality and diversity and improving the safety of children & young people in Luton.

If you would like an informal discussion about the role, please contact Catherine Barrett, the LSCB Business Manager on **01582 547590**.

The LSCB is committed to its safeguarding responsibilities. The successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced CRB check and references will be obtained.

Apply now online at www.luton.gov.uk/jobs if you experience problems applying online, please call **(01582) 546621** during office hours.

Closing date for applications is Friday 28th January 2011